In the Court of Appeals of the State of Alaska

Kalen Hudson Selby,)	
Appellant,)	Court of Appeals No. A-13304
V.)	Order Strike Brief
State of Alaska,)	
Appellee.)	Date of Order: 5/28/19
Trial Court Case # 3AN-18-07822MO	/	

The Appellant, Kalen Hudson Selby, represents himself in this appeal. He was convicted in the district court of violating AS 28.15.291(a)(2), an infraction. *See* AS 28.15.291(b)(2).

The State has filed a motion asking this court to strike the Mr. Selby's prose brief in this appeal. The State contends that the brief should be rejected because this Court lacks jurisdiction to hear this appeal, and because the Mr. Selby's brief does not conform to Appellate Rule 212.

The State first argues that this Court lacks jurisdiction because under Appellate Rule 601(b), Mr. Selby — who was convicted of an infraction — was required to appeal to the superior court, not to this Court. But under Appellate Rules 202(b), 217(a), and AS 22.07.020(c), this Court has jurisdiction to hear all appeals arising from criminal proceedings in the district court. The Alaska Supreme Court has long considered traffic infractions as a class of quasi-criminal offenses which, while they are not serious, are to be disposed of within the criminal justice system. *See State v. Clayton*, 584 P.2d 1111, 1114 (Alaska 1978). *See also, State v. Dutch Harbor Seafoods, Ltd.*, 965 P.2d 738, 745 (Alaska 1998).

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Nothing in Appellate Rule 601(b) limits this Court's jurisdiction to hear

appeals from district court judgments in criminal proceedings, or in quasi-criminal

proceedings. Nor does the rule require a defendant to appeal to the superior court rather

than to this Court. Instead, Rule 601(b) provides defendants an alternate means to

exercise their right to appeal a judgment from the district court in criminal proceedings.

Under the rule, a defendant may appeal a district court judgment to the superior court

instead of to this Court. If a defendant does exercise the right to appeal a judgment to

the superior court, then the defendant waives the right to later appeal to this Court. But

even so, this Court still has the authority to grant a petition for hearing of the superior

court's appellate judgment.

Regarding the Mr. Selby's opening brief, the Court agrees with the State

that the brief does not conform with Appellate Rules 212 and 217, and recognizes that

the brief is difficult to understand. But this Court, in the interests of justice, has a long-

standing practice of accepting pro se briefs that do not substantially conform with Rules

212 and 217.

For these reasons, the State's motion to strike the Appellant's opening brief

is **DENIED**.

Entered under the authority of Chief Judge Allard.

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

Beth A. Pechota, Deputy Clerk

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